

Keeping Smokers in School and Planting a Seed

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Control Program



Project Rationale

- The overall purpose of the project was to encourage schools in Skagit County to update and enforce their school tobacco policies.
- For schools to effectively enforce their policies they need to impose consequences that support students to quit using tobacco.

How it all began...

- Gather information from other contractors who have implemented Diversion Programs in their counties
- Conduct a needs assessment to determine the school/community needs around diversion.

The Pilot Project

We met with an Intervention Specialist from
Burlington-Edison High School

An example policy was provided

Steve met with his administration

The project began...

The Project was a Success!

1. During the 2001-2002 school year:
2. No diversion offered
3. 44 tobacco related referrals
4. 9 second offenses
5. 1 Three time offender

The Project was a Success!

1. During the 2002-2003 school year:
2. Diversion offered
3. 18 tobacco related referrals (all participated in the diversion program)
4. 7 students requested to attend diversion
5. 1 second offense

Expanding to County-wide

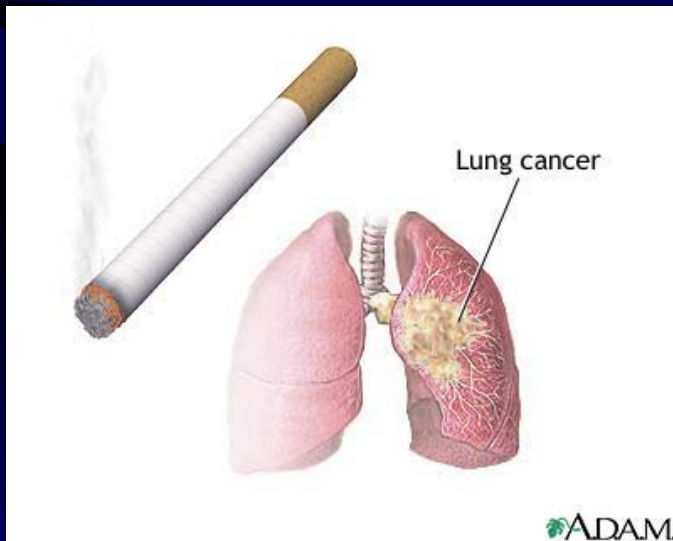
A Forum for school staff and administrators was held to discuss the importance of updating and enforcing school tobacco policies and emphasis was placed on adding procedural components such as diversion and cessation to school policies.

Reasons for Tobacco Free Schools



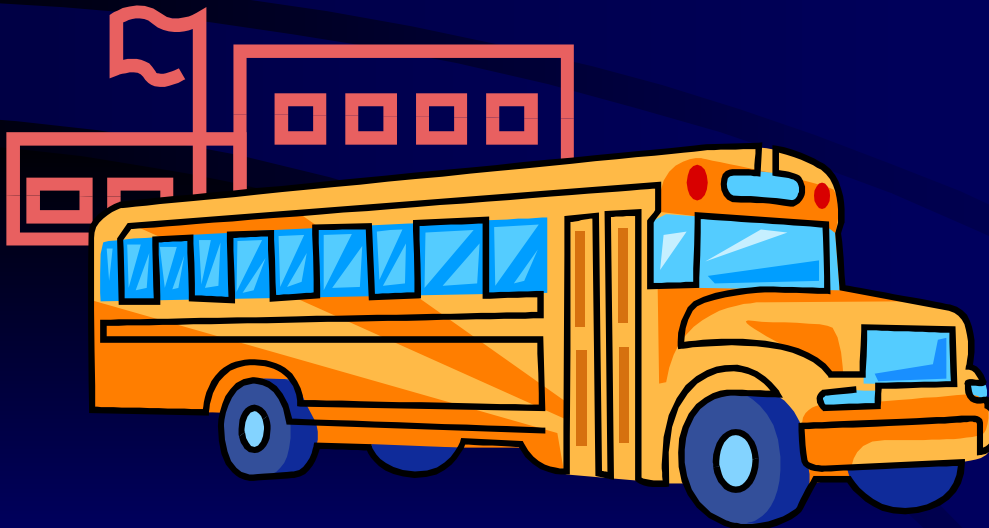
Tobacco kills and disables

Schools are responsible for protecting children in the charge from dangerous products



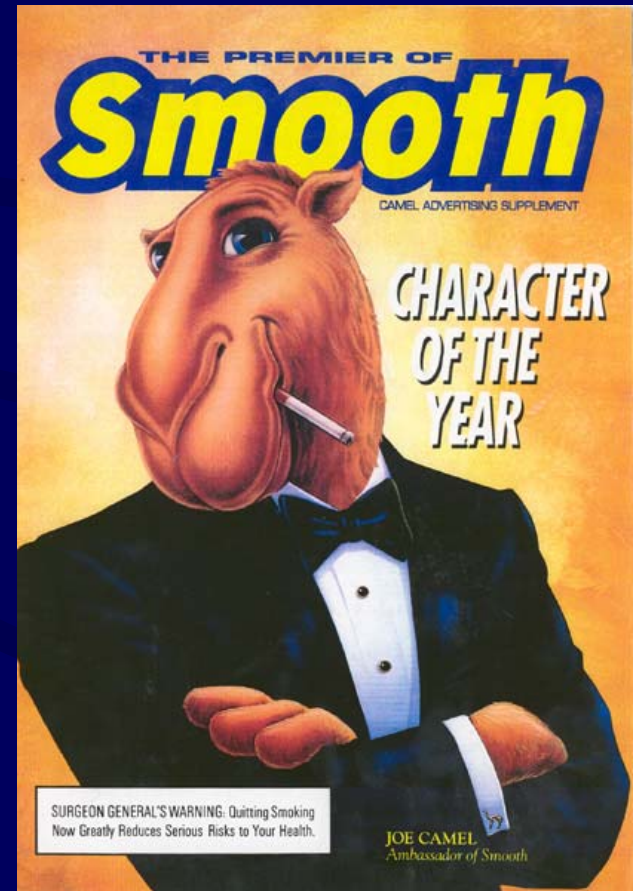
Tobacco is a drug.

Schools must prohibit drug use in school buildings, on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.



Tobacco is addictive

Schools must be in the business of promoting health rather than enabling addictions.



Smoking materials and secondhand smoke are dangerous

- Schools are responsible for providing a safe environment for students.



Middle and high-school years are critical in determining whether or not an individual becomes a smoker for life

- Schools can help "delay the onset" of smoking and significantly reduce the chance that youth will ever use tobacco regularly.

Tobacco is a gateway drug.

- Schools must consider other "side effects" of tobacco use.



Allowing tobacco use at school is
in conflict with prevention
messages delivered.

Schools must send, clear,
consistent non-use messages.

Perceived social acceptance of tobacco use, accurate or otherwise, influences adolescent tobacco use behavior

Schools can reduce children's observation of tobacco use and take a firm stand against it.



Work places are becoming
increasingly smoke-free

Schools need to prepare students for
the reality of smoke-free
workplaces and communities.



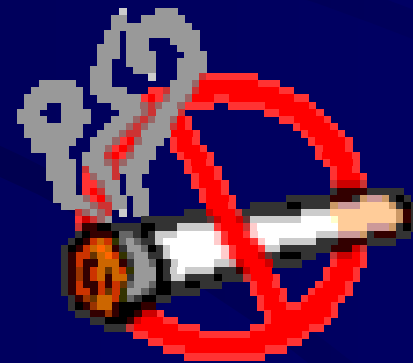
Laws intentionally limit access and possession of tobacco by children

It is important that schools model respect for state laws and community ordinances.



Schools may face liability issues by allowing smoking on their premises

- School districts would be wise to protect themselves from this unnecessary risk.



It's the right thing to do.

- "I hear administrators complaining that implementing a tobacco-free policy is hard. Heck! Teaching math is hard! That doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. It's like standards in a classroom. If you raise 'em high, you are sometimes surprised that kids do meet them. We could never go back to the way it was before the policy" A quote from a Principal.

Factors Influencing Policy Implementation

- **CAPACITY**

(Need, resources, authority, skills to deal with violations, trainings)

- **WILL**

(Belief there is a problem and “this” will be the solution = Motivation/Change in Attitudes)

Strong, Effective Tobacco Free School Policy

Example

Smoking, Chewing, or Possession of Tobacco Products:

B-EHS is a smoke and tobacco free environment, mandated by state and federal law. It is prohibited for minors or adults to use tobacco products anywhere in the school facility.

The Burlington-Edison School District Board of Directors recognizes the detrimental health effects associated with the use of tobacco products. In order to provide a safe and healthy learning and working environment of students and staff, the use of tobacco products will be prohibited on all district property, at all off-campus district events, and in all district vehicles.

Staff Responsibility:

Report incident to office, fill out discipline referral.

Administrative Responsibility:

Conference with student, contact parent, place on discipline ladder (steps 2-4)

•**First Offense:** Three (3) day short-term suspension or a one (1) day in-school-suspension and participation in a 2 hour Diversion Class, offered once a month after school.

•**Second Offense:** Five (5) day short-term suspension or a two (2) day in-school-suspension and participation in a 7 session Cessation Class to be offered two times a week, after school

•**Third Offense:** Fifteen (15) day long term suspension or a five (5) day short-term suspension with a repeat of the Cessation Class coupled with community service.

Skagit County Diversion Program

The program includes both tobacco education and cessation component.

A two-hour diversion class on health effects of tobacco, media literacy and possible quitting methods is offered once a month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The diversion classes are mandatory for a first tobacco offense.

Evaluations/

- Diversion pre- and post-test evaluation tools that are available through CATALYST were used to collect data on program participants

54 surveys were collected

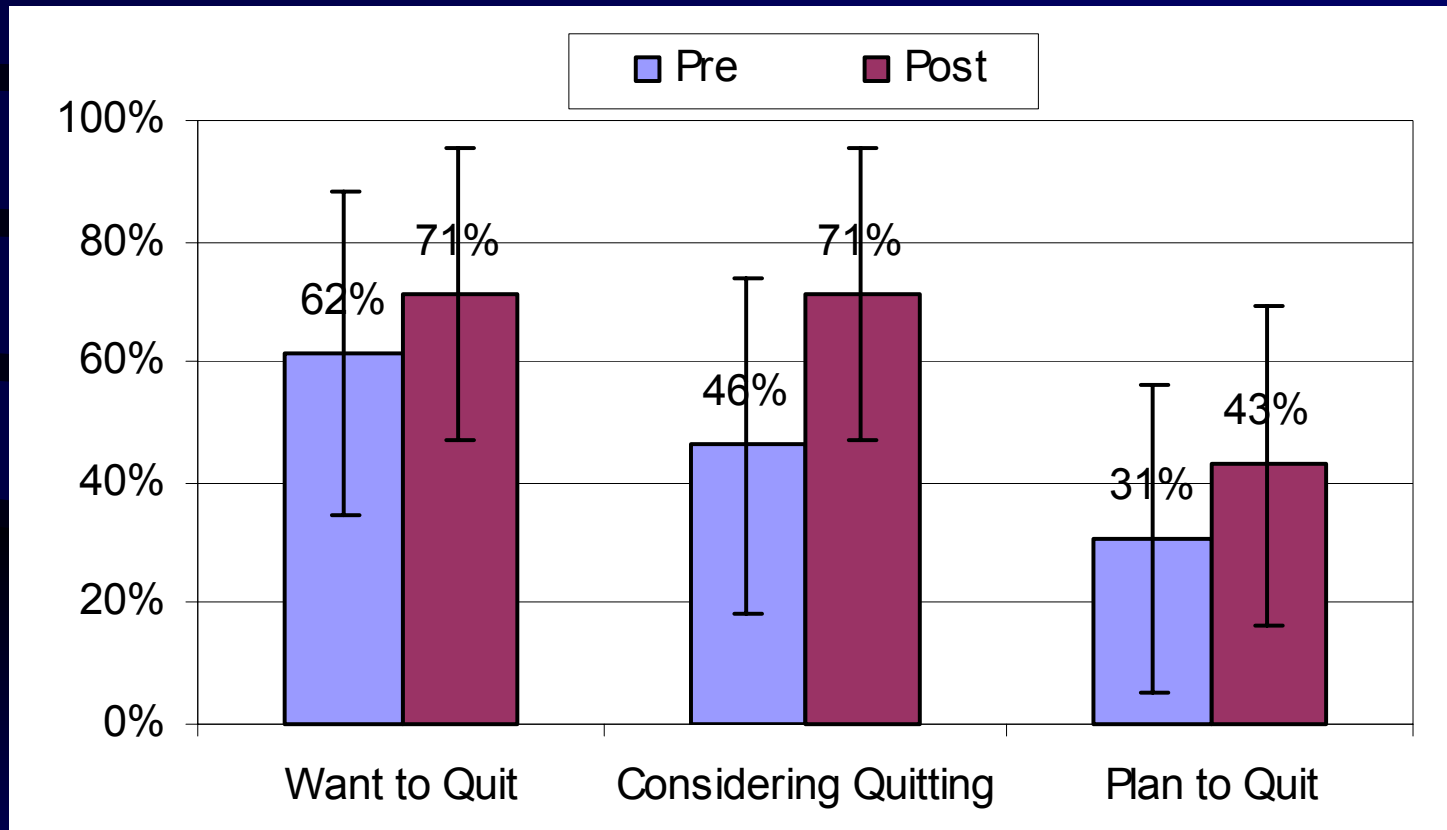
Gender:

79% male, 31% female

Ages:

12 or younger = 6%,
13 to 15 years old = 41%,
16 to 17 years old = 41%,
12% were 18 or older

Change in Attitudes about Quitting among Diversion Program Participants



Thank you!

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